



Attorney Docket: 2254/50641
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: TAKASHI NINO ET AL

Serial No.: 09/986,131 Group Art Unit: 2851

Filed: NOVEMBER 7, 2001 Examiner:

Title: VARIATION DETECTING APPARATUS, VARIATION DETECTING METHOD, AND STORAGE MEDIUM AND SYSTEM FOR STORING PROGRAM INVOLVED IN THE METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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JUL 22 2002

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4, 8, 13, 17, 19, 21, and 22 as follows:

--4. (Amended) A variation detecting apparatus according to Claim 3, further comprising:

means by which an operator referring to said area of said reference drawing/image including said ground objects and said area of said target image including said ground objects displayed by said displaying means inputs a judgement result as to whether there are variations in said ground objects or not.

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